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Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1943.

C. D. OUTRED, D.P.H., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., L.D.S. (ENG.)

Newent Rural District Council.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
NEWENT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Newent Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1943.

As in the previous Reports only essential matters are dealt with, in accordance with the instructions issued to the Medical Officers of Health.

My thanks are due to the Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Jenkinson, for his assistance in preparing this Report, and to the Chairman and Members of the Council for the kindness and courtesy with which they have always received my Reports during the year.

I am,
Your obedient Servant,
C. D. OUTRED,
(Acting) Medical Officer of Health.

Newent Rural District Council.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1943.

Area in acres, 40,845.

Population (as estimated by the Registrar General), 8,204.

Rateable value, £26,853.

Number of inhabited houses, 2,298.

Yield of one penny rate, £118 11s. 5d.

Vital Statistics.

LIVE BIRTHS REGISTERED.

	Live Births.		
	Males.	Females.	
Legitimate	79	65	144
Illegitimate	4	3	7
Total	83	68	151

4·6 % of the live births were illegitimate.

Birth Rate 18·4 per 1,000 population.

INFANTILE MORTALITY RATE.

	Deaths of Infants under 1 Year of Age.		
	Males.	Females.	
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Total	4	2	6

Infantile Mortality Rate of **39·7** per 1,000 Live Births.

STILL BIRTHS.

	Males.	Females.	
Legitimate	–	4	4
Illegitimate	–	–	–
Total	–	4	4

DEATHS.

Deaths registered, 94 (Males 51, Females 43).

Giving a Death Rate of **11·4** per 1,000 population.

Two deaths were transferred out as non-residents.

Twenty-six deaths were transferred in as residents dying outside the district.

Causes of death were certified as due to the following diseases :—

Disease.	Males.	Females.
Diphtheria	1	1
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	3	1
Tuberculosis, other Forms	1	–
Influenza	4	2
Cancer—Bucc, Ear, and Æsophagus	1	1
Cancer of Stomach or Duodenum	1	–
,, Breast	–	1
,, Other Sites	4	3
Diabetes	–	2
Intra cranial and Vascular lesions	6	6
Heart Disease	14	17
Bronchitis	3	2
Pneumonia	3	–
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	–
Diarrhœa, under two years	–	1
Puerperal and post abort Sepsis	–	1
Other Maternal Causes	–	1
Premature Birth, Congenital Malformation, Infantile Diseases—Birth Injury, infant disease	4	1
All other causes	5	3
Total ...	51	43

Principal Causes of Death, per centage of total Deaths :—

Heart Disease and Disease of Arteries ...	45·7 %
Cancer	11·7 %
Respiratory Diseases	8·5 %
Tuberculosis	5·3 %

Infectious Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis).

Scarlet Fever, 9; Whooping Cough, 15: Diphtheria, 33; Measles, 55; Pneumonia, 3; Erysipelas, 1.

Thirty-four were removed to hospital for isolation and treatment.

AGE PERIODS AT WHICH NOTIFIED.

DISEASE.	Under 5 years of Age.	5 and under 15 years of Age.	15 and under 25 years of Age.	Over 25 years of Age.	Total No.
Scarlet Fever	–	9	–	–	9
Whooping Cough	8	7	–	–	15
Diphtheria	2	18	5	8	33
Measles	21	32	–	2	55
Pneumonia	–	1	–	2	3
Erysipelas	–	–	–	1	1

TUBERCULOSIS NOTIFIED.

PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.			
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
1	1	2	4	5	9	11
					Total from Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary ...	11

Three cases were transferred into the District from other areas.

At the end of the year the following number of persons suffering with Tuberculosis remained on the Register :—

PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.			
Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	
13	12	25	23	13	36	61
					Total ...	61

COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES, AND COUNTY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE, Birth and Death Rates are given below.

	England and Wales.	County of Gloucestershire.	Rural District of Newent.
Birth Rate ... ... (Per 1,000 population).	16·1	18·7	18·4
Death Rate ... ... (Per 1,000 population).	49	40	39·7
Infantile Mortality Rate (Per 1,000 Live Births).	12·8	12·1	11·4

BIRTH, INFANTILE MORTALITY, AND DEATH RATES FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.
Birth Rate	15·1	12·8	14·7	18·4
Infantile Mortality Rate	42	26·3	40·9	39·7
Death Rate	12·8	12·8	10·6	11·4

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

	Under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.
Number of children known to be immunised, 31st Dec., 1943	387	984
Percentage immunised of the population of those age periods. No other population taken from Register ...	48·9	77·7

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the Year 1943.

The following particulars have been submitted to me by Mr. H. S. Jenkinson, the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

FOOD INSPECTION.

No regular slaughtering took place in this area during the year, but regular visits were made to Butchers' shops and food stores. The following articles of food stuffs were condemned :—

5 1-lb. 8 oz. tins of sausage meat.
1 tin of sausage meat.
21-lbs. of sausage meat.
2 6-lb. tins of corned beef.
26 tins of fish. 14 tins of milk. 10 tins of plums.
6 tins of meat. 46 tins of miscellaneous.
23 tins of carrots.
10-lbs. of bacon, and a quantity of groceries contaminated with paraffin.

Licenses were issued to Slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Act. A number of these were for slaughtermen living in this area, and slaughtering in the Gloucester abattoirs.

MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER.

During the year 322 visits were made to dairy premises and milk producers. Notices were issued in respect of 19 contraventions, 17 of which were remedied during the year, the remaining two have since received attention.

At sixteen premises, structural alterations or improvements were carried out, a number of these being with a view to obtaining an Accredited License. In all cases, interviews were had with the owner or builder before the work commenced, and supervision was given while the work was carried out.

Thirty-one bacteriological milk samples for cleanliness were taken. Of these, 26 were satisfactory, of the remaining seven samples, two were bad and five poor. In each case the premises were visited and the cause of the trouble located. Repeat samples were taken at a later date of these unsatisfactory samples, until a satisfactory report was received.

Twenty-six samples of school milk were taken by the County Council, and copies of the reports were received by this Authority for information. Of these, only two were not satisfactory. In each case the premises were visited, and the producers interviewed, and subsequent samples were satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLY.

Portions of the Parishes of Newent, Rudford and Highleadon, Tibberton, Upleadon and Pauntley are supplied by water from the Gloucester City supply. In Newent town, a supply of water is taken in bulk by the District Council. Main water is also available in a small area around the Malvern U.D.C. Pumping Station at Bromsberrow. Towards the autumn and the latter part of the year, water shortage was beginning to be experienced, particularly in the Parishes of Hartpury, Staunton, Corse, Redmarley, and Taynton.

Thirteen samples of water were taken from private wells, nine of which were reported unsatisfactory. Of the four satisfactory reports, one was in respect of a new bore hole sunk in the Dymock area. Regarding the nine unsatisfactory samples, three were found to be caused by defective drainage, and these drains were re-laid. In the remaining, wells were cleared out or other remedial action was taken.

A connection was made for an Italian Prisoners of War Camp in Newent. Daily meter readings show that an average of approximately twenty-six gallons per head per day of water is being consumed at this Camp.

HOUSING ACTS.

As in 1942, repairs and inspection of dwelling houses was confined as much as possible to urgent and necessary repairs, e.g., leaky roofs, drainage, etc. In a number of cases it has been necessary to certify to enable a Builder or Owner to obtain controlled material for repairs, etc., such as timber, plaster board, galvanised tubing and sheeting, etc.

In three cases W.L.B. Priority was obtained for carrying out repairs to houses.

COMPLAINTS.

The following complaints classified under headings were received and investigated, and the necessary action taken :—

General Defects	26
Water Supply	21
Drainage	13
Miscellaneous	42
Vermin Infestation	2
War Damage Repairs	1
Filthy Premises	3
Sanitary Accommodation	4
Overcrowdiug	2

Eight complaints of Rat Infestations were received and referred to the County Rat Officer for attention.

Seven new drainage systems were installed, also repairs or extensions carried out to drains at five premises. All drainage work was tested with water.

NEWENT SEWAGE WORKS.

During the year a new Dortmund Settlement Tank was constructed at the Cleeve Lane Sewage Works, by Italian labour.

SALVAGE.

The collection of Salvage continues to be a financial success. During the year, the following amounts of materials were collected and disposed of :—

	Tons	Cwts.
Rags	1	7
Non-ferrous Metals	–	10
Paper	35	8
Iron (including tins)	36	10
Rubber	3	12
Bones	3	7
Batteries	2	–

As in previous years a profit of over £100 was made.

At the end of the year the collection of tins was discontinued, and, in spite of notices being put up all over the District, tins continued to be put on the disused dumps. A comprehensive scheme for collecting refuge over the whole of the District will have to be considered as a Post War service. The present arrangements for refuse collection only include the Newent Town Lighting area.

The County Book Drive was held during the year and a Target set for two books per head of the population. The final figures showed that an average of three books per head of the population had been collected. This was in some way due to the efforts of the school children in the area.

MISCELLANEOUS VISITS.

The following miscellaneous visits were made during the year :—

Evacuation	204
Council Houses	121
Inspections	292
Salvage	119
Drainage and Building Work	187
Water Supply	88
Sewage Works	41